

Work Task B8: Fish Tagging Equipment

Contact:	Tom Burke, LC-8300
Purpose:	Acquire and maintain supply of fish tagging materials and equipment for native fish being released into the LCR.
Conservation Measures:	RASU3, RASU6, BONY 3 and BONY5
Long-term Goal(s):	The goal is to rear and stock over 1.2 million native fish. During the first 10 years of the program, most fish will be tagged to allow for maximum information gathering upon recapture. Such survival and distribution data will be needed for future decision-making.
Location:	Lower Colorado River
FY2006 Estimate:	\$45,000 for 10,000 tags and associated equipment.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$75,000 for 20,000 tags and associated equipment.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$75,000. Same as previous year.
Project Description:	Purchase 10,000 Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, new tag reader, and directional antenna. Fish Augmentation Program requires all fishes to be marked in some way to facilitate identification upon recapture. To assist with survival studies, PIT tag will be used for most of Phase I. These tags provide a unique ten-digit alphanumeric code and are inserted into the fish's body cavity. Each tag contains a coil of wire and a computer chip. A magnetic field will generate enough electricity to download the tag number. Theoretically, the tags should last indefinitely. Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been using these tags successfully along the LCR since 1991.